



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Application Serial No. 10/ 693,699 |) | Docket No. ve010 |
| Filing Date 10.27.2003 |) | Khalili, Farid Bruce |
| Examiner: Swiger III, J. |) | Art Unit 3733 |
| Confirmation No. 2292 |) | |

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED 03.01.2006

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed 01.23.2006 in which claims 1 - 57 are subject to a restriction and/or election requirement.

A Petition for an Extension of Time for five months, with an appropriate fee, is enclosed.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION. None.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS. None.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS. None.

An ELECTION of claims begin on page 2 of this communication.

REMARKS. None.

An INDEX OF CLAIMS starts on page 3 of this communication.

ELECTION

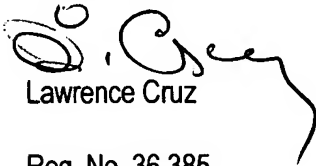
Pursuant to the election requirement issued by the Examiner in the Office Action of 01.23.2006, in which the Examiner identified Plate species A, B, C, D and Screw Species A1, A2, A3, and A4.

Applicant hereby elects A4- which the Examiner identified as Fig. 20.

The embodiment shown in Fig. 20 is a screw having a threaded shaft for engaging a first body and a threaded head, whereby the threaded head cooperates with a locking means, i.e., a split ring, to lock the screw to a second body.

The elected claims are: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32.

Respectfully submitted,


Lawrence Cruz

Reg. No. 36,385